



HOLLISTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

HOLLISTER POLICE AND SAN BENITO COUNTY SHERIFF TO ENFORCE LAW PROHIBITING THEFT OF RECYCLABLES

HOLLISTER, CALIFORNIA – August 7, 2009 – The Hollister Police Department and the San Benito County Sheriff's Office will enforce laws prohibiting the theft of materials from recycling carts.

The Hollister Police Department and the San Benito County Sheriff's Office have received complaints of persons rummaging through recycle carts placed for curbside pick-up. According to California law, once the carts are placed at curbside, the materials in these carts become the property of the waste collection agency, which in San Benito County is Norcal Waste Systems.

Representatives of Norcal Waste Systems have notified the Hollister Police Department and the San Benito County Sheriff's Office that they will cooperate with the prosecution of theft from the carts. Phil Couchee, General Manager of Norcal Waste Systems, said, "Theft of recyclables is a problem in most cities. We want to be responsive to community concerns. Many residents have expressed concerns regarding scavengers wandering through neighborhoods early in the morning, creating messes and intruding into personal items. If we can be of assistance in helping deter this, we will."

Persons wishing to report the theft of recyclables from curbside carts may do so by calling 636-4331 (City of Hollister) or 636-4080 (Unincorporated San Benito County). As the victim of such thefts is Norcal Waste Systems, the caller does not have to reside at the residence from which the carts were placed.

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